

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 27 (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) ~~An~~In a laser electrical wiring line cutting apparatus for cutting an electrical wiring line, the improvements comprising:

- a laser generator for generating a laser beam;
- an optical beam branching element for branching the laser beam generated by the laser generator into a plurality of branch beams;~~and;~~
- a beam condenser for condensing the branch beams branched by the optical beam branching element;
- a beam splitter element for splitting the laser beam generated by the laser generator into a plurality of beams, wherein the optical beam branching element is arranged for at least one split beam, and wherein the beam splitter element is a polarizing beam splitter;
- a variable retardation element disposed in front of the polarizing beam splitter for adjusting a polarization plane component ratio of the beam; and
- a suction mechanism for sucking in debris resulting from the cutting of the electrical wiring line at a focus point of at least one of the branch beams.

29. (original) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the optical beam branching element also serves as the beam condenser.

30. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the optical branching element is one of an optical diffraction element and a phase grating.

31. - 33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, further comprising a beam expander for adjusting the beam diameter of the beam prior to beam condensation.

35. (canceled)

36. (original) An apparatus for manufacturing an electronic device including a substrate having a plurality of electric wiring lines to be connected with an IC mounted on the substrate comprising:

a laser generator for generating a laser beam,

an optical beam branching element for branching the laser beam generated by the laser generator into a plurality of branch beams, and

a beam condenser for condensing the branch beams branched by the optical beam branching element,

wherein the plurality of electrical wiring lines which are shorted to each other are cut by the branch beams for isolation from each other and then connected with the IC.

37. (original) An apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the optical beam branching element also serves as the beam condenser.

38. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 36, further comprising an IC mounter which mounts the IC on the substrate.

39. (original) An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein an optical system including the laser generator, the optical beam branching element and the beam condenser is incorporated in the IC mounter.
40. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the laser generator is a laser diode oscillator.
41. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the optical branching element is one of an optical diffraction element and a phase grating.
42. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising a beam splitter element for splitting the laser beam generated by the laser generator into a plurality of beams, wherein the optical beam branching element is arranged at least for one split beam.
43. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising a beam expander for adjusting the beam diameter of the beam prior to beam condensation.
44. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising a beam expander for adjusting the beam diameter of the beam prior to beam condensation.
45. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising a beam expander for adjusting the beam diameter of the beam prior to beam condensation.

46. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising a beam expander for adjusting the beam diameter of the beam prior to beam condensation.

47. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising a beam expander for adjusting the beam diameter of the beam prior to beam condensation.